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LETTER DATED 15 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit a statement by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan.

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lakim K. KAYUMOV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan on 15 July 1993

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan note that following the seventeenth session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, the process of stabilization of the social and political situation is becoming increasingly irreversible, the most serious consequences of the civil war and the recent natural disasters are being eliminated, and ways of extricating the Republic from the severe economic crisis are becoming apparent. Law and order are being established in the country, the return of the refugees continues, and conditions in which the citizens can work in peace are being created.

However, the return of peace to the long-suffering land of Tajikistan is not welcomed by the armed terrorist anti-government groups which have entrenched themselves in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Recently, these groups have more than once violated the State frontier and created a real threat to the lives of the Russian frontier guards and the residents of regions adjacent to the frontier. Despite heavy losses, provocative armed attacks continue. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that units led by Afghan field commanders from a subunit of the 55th Infantry Division of the Ministry of Defence of the Islamic State of Afghanistan are participating alongside them in these armed provocations. Specifically, on 13 July 1993 a large body of troops from the military formations of the anti-popular forces, supported by Afghan mujahidin and subunits under the Ministry of Defence of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, attacked the frontier village of Sarigor in the Shurabad district. The attack resulted in losses of life and injury, including among the civilian population (the village of Sarigor was looted and burned down).

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan pay tribute to the bravery of the Russian frontier guards and express their deep grief at the heroic deaths of the frontier guards and the troops of the 201st Motor Rifle Division. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic categorically condemn the attack carried out from the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan against the territory of Tajikistan, and state that such actions deal an irreparable blow to good neighbourly relations between the two countries and are likely to have unpredictable consequences which may lead to their escalation into a conflict on a regional scale. The responsibility for such acts of open aggression perpetrated from Afghan territory rests fully and entirely with the extremist groups in Afghanistan which, in alliance with armed units of the Tajik opposition, are seeking to impede the development of the country, the process of spiritual renewal of society and the building of Tajikistan as a democratic, secular State ruled by law.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic regard this latest barbaric attack as an act of aggression against sovereign Tajikistan as a direct violation of the country's territorial

integrity and security in contravention of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, emphasize the inadmissibility of such acts and reserve the right, if they continue, to take all necessary measures in accordance with article 51 of the United Nations Charter and to exercise their rights under the Treaty on Collective Security signed by member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan express their gratitude to the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, and to the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation for their support to the Tajik people in this difficult time.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan express the hope and conviction that the parliaments and Governments of the parties to the Treaty on Collective Security will discharge to the full their obligations under the Minsk Agreements of 22 January 1993 relating to the conduct of peace-keeping operations in Tajikistan and the defence of the Tajik-Afghan frontier.

(Signed) Emonali S. Rahmonov
Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of
the Republic of Tajikistan

(Signed) Abdumalik A. Abdullajanov
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the Republic of Tajikistan